

The Sun.

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Man, Not God, on Trial.

OSCAR S. STRAUSS, in a striking address delivered on Sunday morning at the Mount Morris Baptist Church in this city, said: "This most barbaric and colossal war has not put God on trial, but man on trial."

These words go to the very root of a problem seemingly insoluble to many devout minds that have found the tragic events of the past year destructive in their effects upon their former religious convictions, subversive of old faiths, conducive to agnostic, even atheistic tendencies of thought.

The late Professor CHAMBERLAIN declared not long before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe that in the Old World, if not in the New, Corsica had conquered Galilee. With in the present year ex-President ELLIOT of Harvard has asserted that, after two thousand years of effort, Christianity has failed to accomplish upon earth its avowed mission. Other voices in various parts of the world worthy of public attention have been raised to the same effect.

If, as is argued by HAECKEL, the ablest of contemporary materialists, the physical universe is a goddess, soulless machine, the very existence of which precludes the possibility of a spiritual realm; is the only medium through which mankind's aspirations can find a vent, then indeed does man's inhumanity to man, as illustrated by the wanton slaughter of millions of human beings within the past twelve months, leave no opening for any ray of light or hope from religious sources. Man has been placed on trial, his blood guilt is established, and there is no God.

But we are herewith confronted by a paradox. The scarlet tragedy that has overthrown European civilization has caused a spiritual awakening in all parts of the world. The cynicism that should have furnished the materialists with the most crushing argument vouchsafed to them in all the bloody history of the race has intensified the religious fervor of mankind to an unprecedented degree.

The modern world is prostrate before its altars, offering prayers to the Unknown. Never before have our churches been so crowded, never before have the exponents of religious teachings found such willing ears, such anxious, eager hearts. What should have happened logically if Corsica has really conquered Galilee in the world of today has by no means taken place.

On the contrary, the materialism that led Professor CHAMBERLAIN to make his sweeping generalization has been widely replaced of late by a spiritual quickening, a renewed conviction on the part of countless thousands that there exists a domain beyond and above the material, a domain necessary to explain the phenomena exhibited by the soul of man under the stress of the world's most appalling calamity.

K. of K. in the Near East.

It has been practically accepted that LORD KITCHENER will be absent from London for several months; but in view of the important services that he may render through his presence in the Near East there seems no reason to believe that this absence signifies his retirement from the post that he has held. His long stay may make too onerous the duties imposed upon other members of the Cabinet and thus force his resignation. That such a contingency is contemplated is, however, doubtful.

He knows Egypt and the East as few other Englishmen do. It was in winning Egypt to the British and reorganizing its government that his most valuable services to the empire, both military and civil, were performed. Besides, his duties as commander in the Mediterranean, a post which he held before General LAX HAMILTON, made him familiar with the military possibilities and strategic value of points that have become vitally important since the Austro-German army has been crushing its way through the Balkans.

The Berlin Gazette, in commenting upon his departure, says that KITCHENER will be just in time to assist in transporting troops from Salonica to Egypt, "where they will be more needed." That the Teutonic forces, scarcely yet half way across the Balkan peninsula and with no ships at their command, can so soon strike at the "heart of the British Empire" is, of course, out of the question. But that the success of the Teutonic drive and the mastery of Constantinople and its approaches are great perils

to the British eastern possessions there is no doubt.

It is this critical situation that has thoroughly aroused Great Britain. The reports indicate that heavy reinforcements are already being landed at Salonica and hurriedly rushed to the aid of Serbia. The departure of KITCHENER may signify that England is at last really awake to her responsibility in the war and that in calling into the field where he is sorely needed her most capable commander she is endeavoring to undo the blunders through which it is said she "must pass to victory." At least, with KITCHENER at the front the indications are that the war in the Balkans will be desperately fought and that the Teutonic advance to Egypt may be somewhat delayed.

Redfield, Policeman, Judge and Executioner.

The subjoined paragraph is taken from a letter of instruction sent on September 27 by the Secretary of Commerce to the Supervising Inspector-General of the Steamboat Inspection Service with relation to the enforcement of the seamen's law on the great lakes:

"The problem which your force of inspectors must face during November will be that of enforcing the law without, upon the one hand, suspending the traffic or, upon the other, permitting themselves to be blinded by the temporary methods of any who may wish to have present expense in the possible thought that changes in the law may be secured during the coming winter. Both of these extremes are to be carefully avoided."

It should be understood that the seamen's law will affect only twenty-six days of navigation on the great lakes this year. The Secretary's letter continues:

"The question may in part resolve itself into one of good faith. The vessel owners have had ample notice and are obligated to do all possible to be ready to meet the law fully when it takes effect. Your inspectors should therefore look to all to obey the law and, in cases where that obedience may not be complete, will report the facts, which will be considered by the Department on the particular merits of each case. The failure on the part of a vessel owner to take every practicable step toward preparedness for complying with the law will not be considered an excuse for the lack of such compliance. Those, however, who in good faith do the utmost practicable to be ready and who, when the law takes effect, are striving to comply with it, will be given the consideration that the facts may warrant when considering penalties for non-compliance."

In other words, this statute is to be enforced not according to its terms but according to WILLIAM C. REDFIELD's personal opinion of the attitude toward it of those whose ships it regulates. He is to judge whether they are acting in good faith, and whether penalties for non-compliance with its provisions shall be inflicted. He, and not the law, is to decide every question that is raised and obtain every punishment.

The ship owners of the great lakes must be searching their memories to day to reveal any indiscreet remarks concerning the Hon. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD they may have uttered.

The Maintenance of Vitality in the Trenches.

The endurance of physical fatigue and mental strain by soldiers now living and fighting in the front lines of the contending armies is the wonder of all who have given thought to this subject. A survey of the methods pursued in at least one of the armies may serve as a lesson in civil life.

GEORGE ADAMS, a correspondent of the London Times, who depicts in vivid colors life behind the scenes at the front, tells us that the average English soldier is better fed in war than in peace, receiving as a daily ration the following: One and a quarter pounds of fresh meat and bread, a quarter of a pound of bacon, three ounces of cheese and sugar, five ounces of vegetables, a quarter of a pound of jam, two ounces of butter, some tea, salt, pepper, mustard and a liberal allowance of tobacco.

Mr. ADAMS does not mention the rum which some persons believe to be part of the British soldier's daily ration. In view of the recent statements to the effect that alcoholics are daily dealt out to all the armies on the western front, and the report circulated by JANE ADAMS and HARRIS STANTON BLATCHER that alcoholic stimulation is the basis of soldierly courage in Europe, THE SUN investigated this subject with the following authentic results:

In the British army no allowance of rum is given, except that on the recommendation of the medical officer and at the discretion of the General commanding half a gill (one-sixty-fourth of a gallon) may be issued in active operations in the field. That this emergency ration is given to soldiers returning from arduous work to counteract fatigue is indicated by the fact that it is issued on advice of the medical officer. "The French soldier drinks only water in camp or barracks; the Captain may, when he can spare something of the food allowance, order wine to be brought from time to time. Especially when the service has been harder than usual the soldiers receive one-quarter of a quart of wine. In one instance a quarter of a quart of light wine was given three or four times a week in the winter on advice of the medical corps. In the German and Austrian armies 'no rations of alcoholic beverage are given. If any soldier wants to buy beer or wine he can go to the

outlier who is following the regiment."

It follows from these official statements that alcohol is not regarded as essential to the maintenance of the soldier's vitality, a fact which may be regarded as a valuable lesson in civil life. Indeed, as THE SUN has pointed out, experiments in the Swedish army have proved that accuracy in shooting is impaired by even a small quantity of alcoholic drink, the effect of which may not be noticeable. That a liberal allowance of tobacco is issued as a ration indicates that tobacco is regarded as essential to the maintenance of the soldier's vitality.

Mr. ADAMS states that the health of the soldier is better than at home, owing to the preventive inoculations against typhoid, cholera, smallpox and tetanus and the most stringent supervision of the water supply. The value of these inoculations, being practically demonstrated under most trying conditions, should be accepted as a lesson by our lawmakers, moving them to drive from the legislative halls the misguided ants who oppose all preventive measures of this type and who sometimes succeed in cajoling or harrying our legislators into dangerous acquiescence in their foolish schemes.

It is customary in the front lines to send soldiers to the rear for a fortnightly bath, also to give them at this time opportunity for recuperation by comforts. In Ypres, for example, a large lute factory is used for a rest cure, where 1,000 soldiers may be accommodated. Here they are able to sleep without danger, read, smoke and enjoy life, also to bathe in the bleaching vats while their clothing is disinfected and cleaned. Another valuable lesson to those who in civil life are subjected to the wear and tear on nerves that often incapacitates them or drives them to suicide.

After the Coroner Quits.

Behind the obvious and admitted violation of statutes, regulations and orders to which the deaths of twelve women in a Brooklyn factory on Saturday are immediately ascribable lies a general cause that has long been recognized and to the correction of which the energies of the State and city should immediately be devoted. It is the multiplicity of inspection agencies, with duplicated and overlapping duties, each charged with the enforcement of certain details of the regulations adopted to insure safety, and none exclusively responsible for the observance of all of them.

The chaotic condition existing in New York with respect of building supervision is notorious. It imposes a heavy unnecessary tax on real estate. It results in jealousies and contentions among officials that react to the detriment of contractors and owners. It leaves the proprietors and occupants of structures of all kinds in doubt as to their obligations, and naturally brings the whole code into contempt. The requirements of one department cancel the exactions of another. The victim of disorderly official activities is encouraged to violate all the orders that are served on him. In the belief that public muddling will conceal his private neglect.

If from this needless tax on property, this waste of public money, this senseless multiplication of jobholders we obtained an approach to safety in the buildings that are subject to their visitation, the situation would be more nearly defensible. We do not. On the contrary, the most elemental safeguards are lacking, the most easily accomplished means of protection is ignored. State and city, despite enormous drafts on the taxpayers, cannot unlock an exit door or render a stairway slow burning. They can issue attractive bulletins explaining why the laws were not enforced and what was done not to enforce them, and these seem to measure the possibilities of their costly efforts.

The remedy is not difficult to find. A consolidation of the inspection services with centralized authority and responsibility would end the dodging of blame and compel intelligent execution of the laws. It should decrease expenses for the taxpayers and real estate holders. It would insure improvement in conditions that now menace the lives of thousands of men and women, and reduce to the possible minimum the risks of workers in every kind of employment. When the community has done with the latest Coroner's inquiry springing from the faults of the present fatalities, why does it not try to reduce that official's work in the future by an intelligent and thorough revision of his inspection system?

Mr. Kitchen's Opposition to Preparedness.

Representative CLAUDE KITCHEN of the Second North Carolina district, who expects to lead the House majority in the Sixty-fourth Congress, and who has announced his disapproval of President Wilson's naval programme, has been in opposition to Mr. Wilson before. He was one of nineteen Democrats who voted against the ship purchase bill, and his decision on that subject was unshaken by the appeals of the Executive. With a disregard for the favor of the Postmaster-General that made Washington gasp he kept the Hon. ALBERT SINKLER RUMSEY cooling his heels when that gentleman called on him to persuade him to give in to the McAdoo scheme, and after admitting him, persisted in his stiff-necked antagonistic attitude.

So Mr. KITCHEN is a fighter, and the President must recognize him as such. But it is not Mr. Wilson's idea that the naval and military plans he hopes to see adopted should be treated as party questions. And Mr. KITCHEN recognizes this. They transcend party lines and have no partisan significance. They are national in their

scope and application, and therefore to be treated not in the caucus, but in the House itself. In that larger forum Mr. KITCHEN, while an adversary not to be belittled, does not loom so overwhelming as the majority leader does in the majority councils. The test of foresight and patriotism is to be applied to the Republicans as well as to the Democrats, and if Mr. Wilson loses one of his own party, it is not beyond probability that the deficiency may be more than made good by recruits from the ranks of the Republicans.

Will the Kaiser look on President Wilson's citation of the Bible in his advocacy of preparedness as a violation of neutrality?

Now that modern warfare has reached Bagdad it is possible that the next voyage of SINBAD the Sailor will be in a submarine.

On the north side of a traffic congested Fifth avenue crossing seven accidents to pedestrians have occurred since a tale of safety was built there. During that period no accident occurred on the south side, where there is no tale of safety.

With what admirable caution Mrs. R. L. BARKER measured her words when she informed her fellow members of the Woman's International Missionary Union that "we," presumably missionary and other women, "spend \$10,000,000 each year for poodies!" Of course the lady did not state the fact until a painstaking investigation warranted, and her precision equals her caution and preparedness. We accept her figure, although until now harboring the suspicion that the dem tot was a dollar or two less.

By the way, was that apology from Mexico ever obtained?

This nation has won its position in the world without resorting to the habit of totting a flintlock, however.

The embattled farmers who fired the shot heard round the world made a practice of totting a flintlock, however.

American have for years smiled in a superior way whenever they heard that a pedestrian knocked down by a vehicle in the streets of New York was liable to arrest, but Police Commissioner WOODS, after careful study of accidents here, believes the adoption of the practice would greatly decrease fatalities. It is a conspicuous fact of New York life that we pay our policemen to see us safely from curb to curb, and then deliberately seek the spot where they are not stationed to cross the roadway.

A champion of neutral States is not likely to enjoy a sinecure.

"DANIELS sees possibilities of direct earnings as well. Daniels cut the sumptuous cable and so got no 'direct orders' from Pennsylvania avenue. But how is a wireless to be cut when 'direct orders' might spoil a good fight?"

If half the activities charged against him were really his then was not Lieutenant ROMER PAY the busiest thing?

Grand Jury may go to Sing Sing—Newspaper headline.

Its function, however, is to prepare the way for others to go there.

The Agricultural Department at Washington is seeking a definition for the word "weed." Couldn't it be called any plant besides tobacco that is in danger of being absorbed by a trust?

Inadequate defence is worse than no defence. They are equally futile and the former is more costly in lives and money than the latter.

Admirers of French opera who regret its rare appearance in the repertoire of the Metropolitan Opera House should be gratified that "Samson et Delilah" will be sung on the opening night of the season. It is one of the masterpieces of the modern French school and has been sung here with rare brilliancy by the French composer of the day. It will be sung in French, moreover, by three Italians, one Hungarian, one German and also one Frenchman. And it will be conducted by an Italian.

We sympathize with Senator-elect UNDERWOOD's hope that Congress will do its business quickly and adjourn early in the spring; but it won't.

United States note too mild for Berlin, but called harsh by London—Newspaper headline.

If memory serves, certain earlier communications from Washington to a European capital were too mild for London and too harsh for Berlin.

The only colors that always win at football are the black and blue.

Japan, the Philippines and the West Indies.

To the Editor of THE SUN—Sir: The proposal outlined by "Speranza" in THE SUN of November 4, to trade the Philippines for the West Indies, so the Allies could present the archipelago to Japan as the price for her entrance into the European war, while interesting as an academic suggestion loses sight of one great vital principle.

The Philippines are Christians, professing adherence to the Roman Catholic faith. The missionary labors of four centuries among the people of Asia that has responded to the teachings of Christ cannot so for naught. Whether we like it or not, whether the islands are a source of strategic weakness or otherwise, the American people cannot callously bargain away the national aspirations of the Filipino and hand over the islands to be governed by a nation which has demanded the right to propagate the Buddhist faith in China, and by this act declares to the world that she is opposed to the spread of Christianity in the East.

PREPAREDNESS AND PEACE.

Mr. Hudson Maxim Discusses the Bryanite Philosophy and "The Commander" in Relation to the Dollar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I read last Friday's SUN the statement made by the late President Wilson's defense programme. I do not mean to imply that Mr. Bryan is dead, for if he is dead I should not refer to him as the lamented.

Some years ago in one of its admirable editorial articles THE SUN spoke of the orientalist delusions of Mr. Bryan. That paradoxical expression exactly applies to the peerless philosopher. Not only is Mr. Bryan ostentatiously reticent but he is also profoundly unassuming. Even his silence is noisy.

Mr. Bryan is of so retiring a disposition that in order to advance himself in any direction he must go backward. His whole public career has been a recession.

Mr. Bryan refers to the national defense programme as a "Bryanite philosophy." He says that the philosophy of national defense is a false philosophy.

What or who is the spirit of Christianity to which or whom Mr. Bryan refers? He cannot refer to the Christianity of the Nazarene, because Christ never taught Bryanism. Christ was for defense, for He said:

And he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.—LUKE, xlii, 16.

Christ never taught non-resistance to wrong. His philosophy was that of one of constant resistance to wrong. Of only that, but also He taught His disciples to gird up their loins with a sword, and to go forth and wage a never yielding warfare of justice against injustice, of right against wrong.

Christ taught strength, not weakness; courage, not cowardice; truth, not passiveness; and when He said "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," He did not refer to Mr. Bryan, but to St. Peter, and He had in mind adequate defenses against any prevailing of hell, whether in the person of a traitor or a heretic.

Mr. Bryan's conception of the spirit of Christianity is that of a smug faced specialization of Providence, which materialized out of the clouds of mystery at Salem, Ill., on March 19, 1860, and who, after it had fledged itself, went to Nebraska and built a tower at Battle Creek, Mich., and made a tongue confusion known as the speech of the Cross of Gold, and which (according to metaphors) was used as a Jacob ladder to the Kingdom of Heaven into the sunshine of publicity and national political prominence.

Mr. Bryan hopes "that the President will be able to get the members of the Manhattan Club." That is a metaphor no prettier than those I have just used. Perhaps Mr. Bryan's meaning is that the President will be able to get the members of the Manhattan Club to support his policy of non-resistance to wrong.

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STERLING EXCHANGE.

Rise or Fall in It Does Not Affect Value of the English Coin.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have always believed that the intrinsic value of the United States dollar gold piece was \$5 and that the English pound being lighter, was \$4.84, and that no matter how much these coins were battered and worn, as long as their weight was not diminished their value would be unchanged.

Therefore I do not understand why the English pound can decrease in value as the United States dollar has. If the balance of trade is against England, and England must send us her gold, it surely does not cost 4 cents to bring one pound sterling. Will you be good enough to pardon my ignorance and enlighten me?

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 6.

It is not the English sovereign which is sold at a discount, but the gold piece which is sold at a discount.

The value of an English sovereign in the United States is its gold value. It is not \$4.84, but about \$4.86-2-3. English sovereigns when they are sold at a discount are sold at a discount of about 4 1/2 percent from the normal par of exchange, which is the value of an English sovereign expressed in terms of dollars.

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